

Application No. 10/026,329

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of producing nanoscale metallic colloids comprising the steps of:

- a. supplying an elemental metal, wherein the size of said elemental metal is in the range of 1-10 microns;
- b. suspending said elemental metal in a non-aqueous organic liquid that is non-reactive to the surface of said elemental metal to form a suspension;
- c. adding a dispersant to said suspension;
- d. comminuting the suspension containing the dispersant materials to form a mixture; and
- e. agitating the mixture at a rate and time necessary to produce nanoscale metallic colloids ~~particles of product material~~.

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Claim 2(original): The method of claim 1, wherein said elemental metal is selected from the group consisting of iron, tin, zinc and palladium and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3(currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of mixing said nanoscale metallic colloids ~~product material~~ with a salt solution comprising a second metal.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said second metal is selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, zinc, nickel and tin and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5(currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of drying the nanoscale metallic colloids ~~product material~~.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the nanoscale metallic colloids ~~product material~~ in an anaerobic solution.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said nanoscale metallic colloids ~~product material~~ has a size in the range of 100-400 nanometers.

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Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous organic liquid is selected from the group consisting of dodecane, butyl acetate and polypropylene glycol ethyl ether acetate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said comminuting is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of ball milling, rod milling and high speed gas jet agitation.

Claim 11-21 (withdrawn).